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11th December 1991

JHB/VT/33021

Dear Beverly

New Foreign Filing Based on USSN 07/639,241
Your Ref: PM 1386 Our file: 33021

Thank you for your letter of 18 November 1991 regarding the above filing.

I have prepared the case for filing in the three Patent Offices concerned and have rearranged the claims into the order most favoured in these countries. As an example I will send with the confirmation copy of this letter a copy of the claims prepared for the EPO. The others are essentially the same with only minor changes in dependency and the like. If you see any obvious error in these rearranged and edited claims, please let me know as quickly as possible.

Turning to the question of drawings, I note that the actual drawings and reference numerals of the three Figures are the same as those for PM 1389 (our case 31755). Formal drawings for that case were prepared here. I further note that in the present case, as in the earlier case, the word heading the last zone of Fig. 3 is 'Passivation'. I queried the word in PM 1389 and it was agreed that it should have been 'Nitridation', and the change was made before the formal drawings were prepared.

In the present case it seems from the text of the specification that this would not be the appropriate word in this case. I can still see no justification for 'passivation' and suggest that perhaps the word in this case should be 'carbidisation' - a word that appears on page 19 of the application as sent to me.

Perhaps you would let me know if this word is correct and whether, in the circumstances, it would be easier to us to prepare the formal copies.

Yours sincerely

J. H. Bass

cc: Marta E Gross (Fish & Neave)

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